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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/585,736

07/12/2006

Kazuhiko Kishi

040894-7468

7925

9629 7590 12/14/2009
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EXAMINER

LOW, LINDSAY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/14/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/585,736	Applicant(s) KISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner LINDSAY M. LOW	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on August 5th, 2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hazel (3,034,382).

Hazel discloses the same invention including a movable clincher 25, 29 including a clincher piece (25) that is engageable with legs 13 penetrated through sheet 17. The movable clincher 25, 29 is opposed to a striking position as seen in Fig. 3 and is rotatable (portion 29 is rotatable and the movable clincher is rotatable if the entire device is rotated). A clincher cam 43 is rotatable about a shaft 45 and has a cam surface engageable with the movable clincher via the parts and links shown in Fig. 1 (35, 33, etc.) so as to rotate the movable clincher. The clincher cam 43 is driven through a drive link (shaft 45) directly operated by a drive mechanism (inherent in order for the cams to rotate). Regarding the terms "stapler" and "binding sheets," note that this device is certainly capable of stapling binding sheets, as the device performs the same function of penetrating a sheet with a staple-shaped component 15.

Regarding claim 2, the cam surface of the cam 43 is arc-shaped and has the same radius from the center of rotation.

Regarding claim 3, a fixed cutter 23 is interposed between the legs and a movable cutter (tip of clincher 25) moves from the outside of the legs towards the inside. The legs are guided between the movable and fixed cutters while the legs are engaged with the movable clincher (see Fig. 3). A cutter cam 43 is engageable with the movable cutter via the parts and links shown in Fig. 1 (33, 35, etc.) and capable of driving it. Note that the clincher cam and the cutter cam 43 are connected together as one integral body and are rotated about the same shaft 45. They are connected together in much the same way as applicant considers two surfaces on rotation cams 9 in applicant's drawings to be a clincher cam and a cutter cam. Different surfaces on Hazel's cams 43 enable the cutting and the clinching.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed August 5th, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that Hazel's component 15 is inserted into a hole, and is not driven. However, it should be noted that claims are given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. In this instance, the claims state, "staple legs penetrated through binding sheets." Note that the term "penetrated," as defined by Dictionary.com, can mean "to pass through or into." Hazel's component 15 is certainly

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being passed through and into the sheet 17. Therefore, Hazel is deemed to anticipate the claims.

Applicant contends that Hazel does not disclose a drive mechanism for driving a staple, as there is no communication between the staple and the drive links 45. However, it should be noted that claims are given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. In this instance, the claims state, "a drive link directly operated by a drive mechanism for driving a staple." Drive links 45 are inherently operated by a drive mechanism in order for the cams 43 to rotate. In addition, the function of the drive mechanism is to "drive a staple." Note that the term "drive," as defined by Dictionary.com, can mean "to cause and guide the movement of" an object. The inherent drive mechanism rotates the cams 43 by links 45. The cams 43 cause movement of the movable clincher 25, 29. The movable clincher in turn "drives" the leg portions of the staple, as the clinchers are causing and guiding the movement of the leg portions, such that they can be bent onto a back surface of sheet 17. Therefore, Hazel is deemed to anticipate the claims.

For the reasons above, the grounds of rejection are deemed proper.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINDSAY M. LOW whose telephone number is (571)272-1196. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30 to 5:00.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. M. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 3721

/Rinaldi I Rada/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3721